



John Reich Journal

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December 2017



The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues\$25.00
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The John Reich Journal is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die marriages, die states of published die marriages, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: 1822 B-3 Capped Bust Quarter Discovery Coin. New marriage of 1822 Obverse 1 and Reverse T with the broken top arrowhead.

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____ Collector ____ Collector-Dealer ____ Dealer (Firm Name) _____

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a ____	Flowing Hair Bust Half Dimes	h ____	Capped Bust Quarter Dollars
b ____	Draped Bust Half Dimes	i ____	Flowing Hair Bust Half Dollars
c ____	Capped Bust Half Dimes	j ____	Draped Bust Half Dollars
d ____	Draped Bust Small Eagle Dimes	k ____	Capped Bust Half Dollars
e ____	Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle Dimes	l ____	Flowing Hair Bust Dollars
f ____	Capped Bust Dimes	m ____	Draped Bust Dollars
g ____	Draped Bust Quarter Dollars	n ____	Gold Issues

I hereby apply for membership in JRCS. As required by the By-Laws of JRCS I agree to pay promptly all my debts or other obligations to JRCS or any of its members. I enclose a check or money order for \$25.00 payable to "John Reich Collectors Society" for my annual membership contribution, or \$625.00 for a life membership in the Society.

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Back issues of The John Reich Journal are still available to members for a fee.
Visit <http://brycebooks.squarespace.com/storage/Lit-Periodicals-display-htm.htm>
for a complete listing of the issues in stock.

John Reich Journal

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Editor's Comments

Welcome to the final issue of The John Reich Journal for 2017. It is time to renew your membership and a renewal form is included in the envelope along with a ballot for voting for the Jules Reiver Literary Award for volume 27. Please send your renewal check as soon as possible along with your votes for the Reiver Award.

The next meeting of the society will be at the upcoming FUN convention in Tampa on Friday January 5th at 8:30 AM in room 9 of the convention center. I hope many of you can make the winter trip to sunny Florida and join us for an interesting meeting.

We are also having our annual meeting at the Philadelphia ANA in August. There are so many different museums and sights to see in Philadelphia and I hope you can plan a day or two extra at this year's convention to enjoy a few.

I am happy to announce the 2017 inductees into our Hall of Fame. In the veteran category Harold Newlin, author and collector of half dimes, was our choice and W. David Perkins, our treasurer and a prolific award-winning author is our modern category inductee. Both inductees deserve their recognition for all they have done to promote our segment of the hobby.

As mentioned before, we will be having a bid or buy sale stocked with donated items to help pay for the new website. We thought having the sale in the spring would be better than competing with the holidays. So, if you have anything to donate there is still time to let me know. Please contact me at bkaroleff@yahoo.com to add to our stash. I will be putting out a list in the next issue of the journal with the lots and the rules of the sale.

I would also like to take the time to thank the individuals that have donated money to help offset the website cost. Everything is greatly appreciated to help keep the JRCS a leading specialty club in the hobby. I would also like to thank the Eric P. Newman foundation for their generous donation to our club. Eric's influence will be felt for much longer than the 106 years he was on this earth due to his generous donations as well as the Newman Numismatic Portal.

Authors have been very generous with their time and efforts and we have a couple articles that have been held over for the next issue. We still need more submissions to fill the first issue of the JRJ for distribution in the spring. Please send us something for publication and you will be eligible for the Jules Reiver Literary Award!

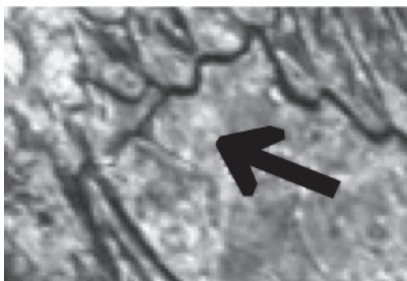
Enjoy the submissions in this issue and I hope you and your family has a wonderful and prosperous holiday season and a happy new year!

A New Die State of the 1796 LM-1 Half Dime

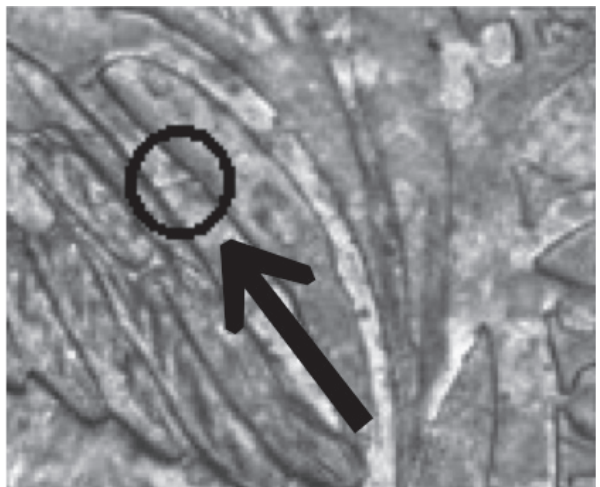
By Jonathan Osborne

The June 8 – 11, 2017 Long Beach Expo auction from Heritage (auction number 1256) contained a very interesting lot. Lot 3332 of this auction was a 1796 ‘LIKERTY’ LM-1 half dime with a fairly severe planchet lamination on the obverse running from stars 1, 2, and 3 to stars 10 and 11, with a dig in Liberty’s hair at the neck. The interesting thing about this coin is the reverse, which shows what appears to be a retained cud consuming more than one sixth of the area. Earlier die states of this marriage show a crack from the edge between the T and A of STATES which gets progressively thicker between these two letters as well as a small crack between the right (facing) wing and the eagle’s leg. These cracks are almost always seen on this marriage, but there is another crack looming on the right side of the reverse that is not commonly seen.

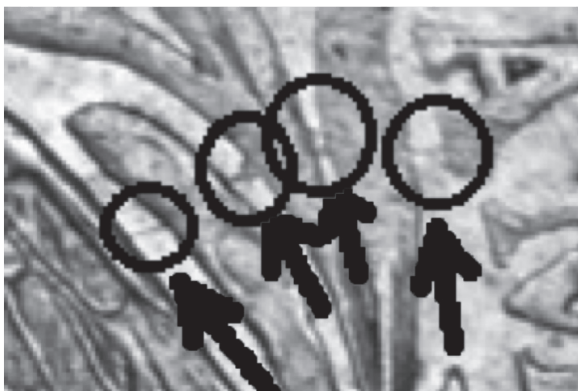
On very late die states of the LM-1 1796 half dime, one can see a wispy die crack from the edge through the right (lower) side of A(M) that continues through the leaves and into the right (facing) wing to join the already present crack connecting this wing to the eagle’s leg. This crack is not present on most examples in Heritage’s archive, and is only barely visible on most of the examples where it is present. This crack is only present when the other crack, between TA of STATES, has already progressed almost to the wing and has formed a pronounced internal cud. The photos below show it on the examples in Heritage 1228:98154, Heritage 1216:4053, Heritage 1228:98154, and an example on the PCGS website. The PCGS example is the highest graded coin showing this crack that I have seen (67+).



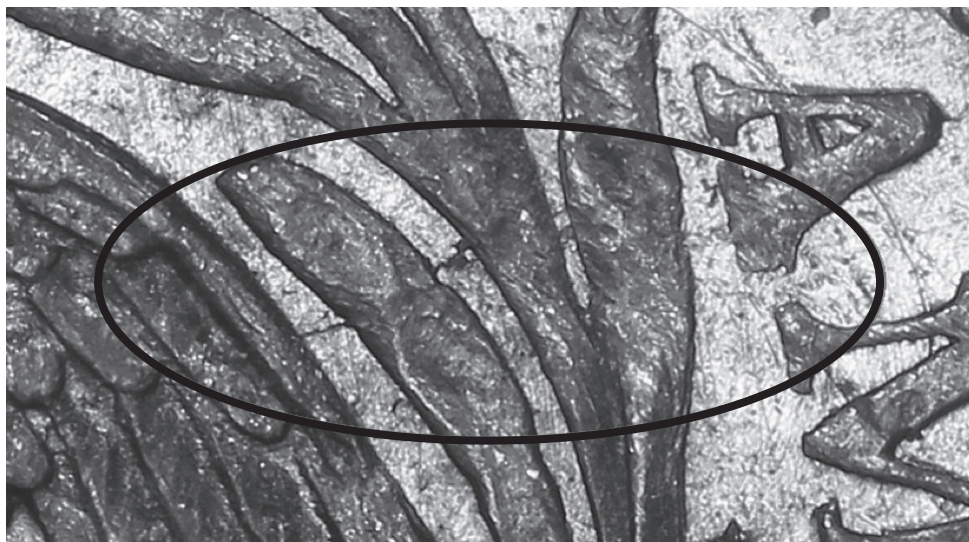
Heritage 1228:98154



Heritage 1216:4053

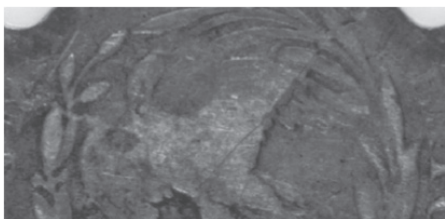


Heritage 1228:98154



PCGS 67+ from the PCGS website

As the minting continued, this crack progressed getting stronger and stronger finally forming a retained cud when it met the crack from the other side of the reverse die. This very late die state is not mentioned in the Logan/McCloskey reference, but can be seen on Heritage 1132:7393 and Heritage 1145:9075. Both of these coins are somewhat low grade, but the cud can clearly be seen. Heritage's lot 1256:3332



Heritage 1132:7393



Heritage 1145:9075

contained a high-grade (though damaged by obverse planchet lamination and possibly also cleaned) specimen that illustrates this very late die state. The figure below clearly shows two distinct planes, with far more detail on the lower part of the right (facing) wing than on the higher part. I believe that this dramatic crack



Image By Heritage Auctions



Heritage 1256:3332

represents a new die state for the LM-1 marriage, and would be interested to hear if there are other coins out there that share this latest die state.



Who Deposited The Silver For The 1794 Dollars?

By David Finkelstein, Joel J. Orosz and Len Augsburger

Introduction

For more than 50 years, multiple numismatic researchers have speculated as to which silver bullion deposit was used for coining the 1,758 1794 Dollars, and which silver bullion depositor or depositors received those 1794 Dollars. Many of these incorrect speculations came to be regarded as fact, simply because they were put in print. They have been reprinted by others, and now appear in multiple publications and auction catalogs, and on several websites. Due to the rediscovery of the first partial coin return warrant issued by Mint Director David Rittenhouse by Joel Orosz and Len Augsburger, we now know that:

- 1) The silver from David Rittenhouse's two silver bullion deposits of August 22, 1794 was used for coining the 1,758 1794 Dollars.
- 2) On October 15, 1794, David Rittenhouse received all 1,758 1794 Dollars in a *partial coin return* towards his two silver deposits.
- 3) The Bank of Maryland and the Bank of Maryland's silver deposit of July 18, 1794 were not connected to the coining or release of the 1794 Dollars.

The October 15, 1794 partial coin return warrant has been in the Society Collection at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania for the last 81 years. It provides us a clearer understanding of the Mint's processing of David Rittenhouse's two silver bullion deposits, and the release of the 1794 Dollars from the Mint's treasury. The following sections provide a chronological account of what we now believe occurred.

August 22 - 24, 1794: Deposit & Assay

David Rittenhouse, in addition to being the Mint Director, was also a depositor of silver bullion. On August 22, 1794, David Rittenhouse (depositor) made Silver Deposits #2 and #3. Silver Deposit #2 was valued at \$1,706.82 ½ and Silver Deposit #3 was valued at \$294.51 ½, for a total of \$2,001.34 (see Figure 1).

David Rittenhouse's two silver bullion deposits were accepted by Treasurer of the Mint Dr. Nicholas Way. How do we know this? Per Section 1 of the Alteration of the Mint Act of March 3, 1794 (which superseded the Mint and Coinage Act of April 2, 1792):

"That from and after passing this act, it shall be the duty of the treasurer of the mint to receive and give receipts for all metals which may lawfully be brought to the mint to be coined; ..."

The deposits were weighed, and a deposit receipt for each was provided to David Rittenhouse (depositor). Sometime between August 22nd and August 24th, the two

silver bullion deposits were assayed. On August 24th, David Rittenhouse (depositor) was provided two *assayer's certificates* that specified the values of each of his silver bullion deposits in to-be-coined United States money. How do we know this? The audit trails of these documents were logged in three Mint ledgers; the Waste Book (see Figure 2), Bullion Journal and Register of Silver Deposits (see Figure 1).

The *gross weight* of a bullion deposit was the actual Troy weight of the deposit. The *standard weight* of the deposit was the calculated Troy weight after the deposit was melted to remove all non-bullion elements, then the correct alloy amount [for silver coins, the alloy was copper] added in to achieve the bullion / alloy percentages as specified in the Mint and Coinage Act of April 2, 1792.

Note that the gross weight of Rittenhouse's two silver bullion deposits were also the standard weight of his deposits. This indicates that his silver bullion was melted and refined to the standards of United States coins before being deposited with the Mint. At this time, it is unknown who did this. The two most likely people were (1) current Assayer Albion Cox, or (2) previous contract Assayer and future Melter and Refiner Pro Tem David Ott.

August 25 - 26, 1794: Transfer Bullion From Treasurer To Chief Coiner

On August 25th and 26th, 1794, David Rittenhouse (Mint Director) ordered Silver Deposits #2 and #3 transferred from the custody of Treasurer of the Mint Dr. Way to the custody of Chief Coiner Henry Voigt. A paper warrant was dated and signed by David Rittenhouse (Mint Director), then provided to Dr. Way. The bullion was then physically moved from the Treasurer's vault to the Chief Coiner's vault. In addition, audit trail entries of the transfer of custody were made in the Waste Book and Bullion Journal (see Figure 3).

October 15, 1794: Delivery Warrant #1

On October 15, 1794, David Rittenhouse (Mint Director) issued Delivery Warrant #1 to transfer 1,758 Dollars from the custody of Henry Voigt to the custody of Dr. Way. A paper warrant was dated and signed by David Rittenhouse (Mint Director), then provided to Henry Voigt. 1,758 Dollars were physically moved from the Chief Coiner's vault to the Treasurer's vault. Audit trail entries were also made in the Waste Book and Bullion Journal (see Figure 4).

What Happened Between August 25 and October 15, 1794?

Beginning August 25th, Silver Deposits #2 and #3 were prepared for coining. The silver was melted (since the deposits did not have to be refined), then poured into ingots of similar sizes and weights, with a thickness that was greater than the Dollar. This standard approach gave David Rittenhouse (Mint Director) flexibility. He did not

Who Deposited The Silver For The 1794 Dollars?

need to decide how many coins of each denomination were going to be struck while the bullion was being melted and refined. At a later date, the ingots could be rolled into strips, the thickness of any denomination, punched into planchets, and then processed through the Castaing Machine, if required, to impart the edge design.

The position of Melter and Refiner was not officially created until the Supplementation of the Mint Act of March 3, 1795. Without a Melter and Refiner, Director Rittenhouse had the next best person melt and refine silver bullion deposits; Assayer Albion Cox. How do we know this? On October 28, 1794, Director Rittenhouse sent a letter to Secretary of State Edmund Randolph. Randolph forwarded Rittenhouse's letter to President Washington. On November 20th, President Washington forwarded Rittenhouse's letter to the Senate. Rittenhouse's letter included:

“Near 120,000 ounces of bullion have already been deposited in the mint for coinage; a considerable quantity of which, being too base for the standard of the United States, has, in part, been successfully refined by the assayer, who is still going on with that process”.

Note that Director Rittenhouse stated that the bullion was “successfully refined by the assayer”. On October 28, 1794, the Assayer was Albion Cox.

October 15, 1794: Partial Coin Return Warrant For 1,758 Dollars

On October 15, 1794, David Rittenhouse (Mint Director) issued a partial coin return warrant to deliver the 1,758 1794 Dollars from Dr. Way to depositor David Rittenhouse (see Figure 5). The text of the warrant, which was rediscovered at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania by Joel Orosz and Len Augsburg, is as follows:

Dep^{ts} Mint of the United States

N^o 2 & 3 Sir 15 October 1794

Pay to David Rittenhouse one thousand
seven hundred and fifty eight Dollars in part of
Deposites No 2 & 3 made the 22.d of August 1794 ~

Dollars 1758 . . .

David Rittenhouse Director

To the Treasurer
of the Mint

The Mint and Coinage Act did not specify that the coins returned to a depositor had to be in only one coin return. We now know that David Rittenhouse (depositor) received multiple partial coin returns for his Silver Deposits #2 and #3. The first partial coin return was on October 15, 1794. Two other partial coin returns most likely occurred on May 7 and 8, 1795. How do we know this?

The audit trail entries in the Waste Book and Bullion Journal specify that on May 7, 1795, David Rittenhouse (depositor) received 1,706 Dollars, 1 Half Dollar, 6 Half Dimes, 2 Cents and 1 Half Cent. Also, on May 8, 1795, he received 52 Dollars, 484 Half Dollars, 51 Cents and 1 Half Cent (see Figure 6). We know that David Rittenhouse (depositor) received all 1,758 Dollars on October 15, 1794, therefore he could not have received them on May 7 and 8, 1795. So why were the audit trail entries dated May 7 and 8, 1795?

Although partial coin returns occurred, they were not logged in the Waste Book and Bullion Journal. What was logged, was the summary of all partial coin returns that occurred, or the one full coin return that occurred. The date of the audit trail entry in the Waste Book and Bullion Journal was the date of the final coin return. This is the date that closed out the accounting for the specific deposit.

David Rittenhouse (depositor) received 1,758 Dollars, 485 Half Dollars, 6 Half Dimes, 53 Cents and 2 Half Cents for his Silver Deposits #2 and #3. He received the 1,758 Dollars on October 15, 1794. On May 7, 1795, he most likely received 1 Half Dollar, 6 Half Dimes, 2 Cents and 1 Half Cent in a partial coin return to close out the accounting for Silver Deposit #2. On May 8, 1795, he most likely received 484 Half Dollars, 51 Cents and 1 Half Cent in another partial coin return to close out the accounting for Silver Deposit #3.

Note that documents in the Mint's General Correspondence files at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) identify that the Bank of Maryland, the Bank of North America and John Vaughan also received multiple partial coin returns for their silver bullion deposits (see Figure 1).

No Connection To The Bank of Maryland's Silver Deposit

The top left corner of the partial coin return warrant in Figure 5 specifies "*Dep^{ts} N^o 2 & 3*". This notation was used on delivery warrants and coin return warrants to identify the source of the silver bullion. For this partial coin return, the silver bullion was from Silver Deposits #2 and #3. Had the 1794 Dollars been struck from the Bank of Maryland's silver bullion deposit, and returned to David Rittenhouse, the top left corner would have been written as "*Dep^{ts} N^o 1 and 2 & 3*". How do we know this?

Several documents at the NARA confirm that the Mint allowed coin exchanges between

depositors. Bullion from one depositor was struck into coins, then returned to a second depositor. Then, when the second depositor's bullion was struck into coins, an equal dollar amount was returned to the first depositor. Coin exchanges required written authorization from both depositors. Although the audit trails of the coin exchanges were not logged in Mint ledgers, some of the documents written by the depositors to authorize the coin exchanges, and some of the warrants authorized by the Mint Director that identify the coin exchanges, are stored at the NARA.

One such coin exchange occurred between the Bank of Maryland (Silver Deposit #1) and John Vaughan (Silver Deposit #7). On February 28, 1795, William Patterson, President of the Bank of Maryland, authorized the Mint to deliver up to \$20,000.00 in coins from the last half of the Bank of Maryland's silver bullion deposit to John Vaughan [image not included in this article]. On April 7, 1795, a delivery warrant was issued to transfer 16,000 Half Dollars from the custody of Henry Voigt to the custody of Dr. Way, "the property of the Bank of Maryland and John Vaughan" (see Figure 7). The warrant specified "Dep^{ts} N^o 1 & 7" at the top left corner, indicating an exchange between the Bank of Maryland and John Vaughan.

Since the October 15, 1794 partial coin return warrant in Figure 5 specified Silver Deposits #2 and #3 at the top left corner, there was no exchange between the Bank of Maryland and David Rittenhouse (depositor). Only the silver bullion from David Rittenhouse's two silver deposits was used for the 1,758 1794 Dollars.

October 16, 1794

On either October 15 or 16, 1794, David Rittenhouse provided Secretary of State Edmund Randolph one of the 1794 Dollars to be given to President Washington. How do we know this? On October 16, 1794, Randolph wrote to President George Washington. A copy of the letter is located in Edmund Randolph's outgoing letter copybook [images not included in this article]. Randolph's letter included the following:

"The silver coin of the U.S. bears upon its face so much neatness and simplicity, that I cannot restrain myself from transmitting a dollar for your inspection".

Washington was not in Philadelphia on October 16th. He was at Ft. Cumberland, Maryland, commanding 13,000 militiamen from the states of Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia in an attempt to suppress the "Whiskey Rebellion".

Also on October 16th, Rittenhouse requested \$5,000.00 from Randolph for current and forecasted expenses of the Mint. On October 20th, Randolph forwarded Rittenhouse's request on to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., who was managing the Treasury Department while Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton was assisting President Washington with suppressing the Whiskey Rebellion.

Who Deposited The Silver For The 1794 Dollars?

Was it a coincidence that (1) the first silver coins were released from the Mint on October 15, 1794, (2) these coins were Dollars, the largest denomination silver coin, and the *crown* coin of the *realm*, (3) one of the Dollars was passed on October 15 or 16 from Rittenhouse to Randolph to Washington, demonstrating success in minting silver coins, and (4) on October 16, 1794, Rittenhouse followed this major success with a request for \$5,000.00 to pay various Mint expenses? There are no coincidences.

How Did The October 15th Warrant End Up At The Historical Society?

Written in pencil on the back of the October 15, 1794 partial coin return warrant is “Society Coll” and “Mrs. Wm. Stansfield Feb. 28, 1936”.

- “Society Coll” indicates that the document is part of the Society Collection. If a large group of items is obtained by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (or HSP), the collection is named, identifying its source. The Society Collection is a general purpose collection name, containing those items, that when obtained, were too small in number to be part of their own named collection.
- “Feb. 28, 1936” identifies the date that the document was added to the HSP’s Society Collection.
- “Mrs. Wm. Stansfield” (or Mrs. William Stansfield), the person from whom the HSP obtained the document.

Who was Mrs. William Stansfield, what was her connection to the October 15, 1794 partial coin return warrant, and why did it end up at the HSP?

- Who Was She?: According to Lineage Book, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Volume 52, Mrs. William Stansfield was also known as Mrs. Mary T. Snowden Stansfield, and was born in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Mary T. Snowden Stansfield, aka Mary Thompson Snowden Stansfield, was born Mary Thompson Snowden on December 14, 1860 in Philadelphia to James Ross Snowden (1809-78) and Susan Engle Patterson (1823-97).

- What Was Her Connection To The Warrant?: Mary’s father, James Ross Snowden, was the 9th Director of the Mint from 1853 to 1861. She most likely obtained the October 15, 1794 partial coin return warrant from her father or her father’s estate. Her father, most likely *permanently borrowed* the warrant for his personal collection from the Mint’s files while he was Director of the Mint.

- Why HSP?: Mary's mother, Susan Engle Patterson, was daughter of General Robert Patterson (1792-1881). General Patterson's mansion was located on the southwest corner of 13th and Locust Streets in Philadelphia. After General Patterson's death in 1881, the HSP purchased the mansion as its permanent home. The mansion was demolished, rebuilt, and furnished between 1905 and 1909. The new HSP building was dedicated in 1910. So why HSP? The HSP is now located on the site of Mrs. William Stansfield's grandfather's home.

Special Acknowledgement To R. W. Julian

Numismatic researcher and prolific author R. W. Julian published an article titled "The First Silver Coinage – 1794", in the February, 1963 Numismatic Scrapbook. On page 3 of his article, Julian wrote:

"While the Bank of Maryland made the first deposit, their bullion does not have the honor of being the first struck as silver coins by the mint. Instead, that deposited by Mint Director Rittenhouse has the laurels... Research in the archives indicates that not only was Rittenhouse's bullion the first used, but he also received every single Dollar struck in the first coinage on October 15, 1794, when 1,758 Dollars were struck..."

We contacted Julian about these statements. Julian's research notes from 1963 indicate that he examined the partial return warrant at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and that this would have been a plausible source for his conclusions that 1) the silver from David Rittenhouse's two deposits of bullion were used to strike 1794 dollars, and 2) Rittenhouse received all 1,758 examples. While Julian did not specifically cite the partial return warrant, we are appreciative of his groundbreaking research, and are pleased to be able to confirm the conclusions in his 1963 article.

Final Thoughts

At this time, it is not known when President Washington received Edmund Randolph's letter, dated October 16, 1794, and the 1794 Dollar. He did not return to Philadelphia until October 28, 1794. Also, it is unclear if the 1794 Dollar transmitted to President Washington is the 1794 PCGS SP66 Silver Plug Dollar that sold for \$10,016,875.00 in the Stacks Bowers January 13, 2013 Americana Sale. Finally, are there other Mint related documents at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania that were obtained from Mrs. William Stansfield? Additional research is required.

References

- 1) The Mint and Coinage Act of April 2, 1792.
- 2) The Alteration of the Mint Act of March 3, 1794.
- 3) The Supplementation of the Mint Act of March 3, 1795.
- 4) Records of the Bureau of the Mint, National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 104; Bullion Journals, Waste Books, Register of Silver Deposits, and Miscellaneous Correspondence 1792-1899.
- 5) Orders and directions for conducting the Mint of the United States, established by Elias Boudinot, director of said Mint. November 2, 1795., John Fenno, Philadelphia, 1796.
- 6) The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Society Collection, David Rittenhouse folder, documents donated by Mrs. Williams Stansfield, February 28, 1936.
- 7) Domestic Letters of the Department of State, National Archives and Records Administration, Volume 7, June 27, 1794 to November 30, 1794.
- 8) American State Papers. Documents, Legislative and Executive, of the Congress of the United States, Gales and Seaton, 1832, Finance, page 317.
- 9) Senate and House Journals. The George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799: Series 1b, Diary, September 30 - October 20, 1794.
- 10) Lineage Book, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Volume 52. Page 234, Martha L. Moody, Washington D. C., 1919.
- 11) The First Silver Coinage – 1794, R. W. Julian, Numismatic Scrapbook, February, 1963.

Who Deposited The Silver For The 1794 Dollars?

REGISTER of CERTIFICATES of the Standard Weight of SILVER BULLION, deposited for Coinage.							
Date of Certificate.	No.	By whom deposited.	Gross Weight.		Standard Weight.		Value.
			Oz.	dwt. gr.	Oz.	dwt. gr.	Dolls. cts. m.
1794. July 12 th	1.	Bank of Maryland	69.332	" "	69.953	13 "	20,715 75
August 24.	2.	David Rittenhouse Esq.	1479	5 "	1479	5 "	1706 82 5
"	3.	ditto	255	5 "	255	5 "	244 51 5
"	4.	Charles Goldsmith, Assayer	1132	10 "	1132	10 "	1306 73 "
"	5.	ditto	40	13 "	40	13 "	46 40 "
31. 1795. February 11.	6.	Bank of N. America	19,344	" "	19,344	" "	22,319 99 "
	7.	John Vaughan Assayer	93298	5 "	95291	5 "	110,522 30 5

Figure 1 – Register of Silver Deposits: Silver Bullion Deposits 1 – 7

Aug. 22 nd			
Silver Bullion Dr. to David Rittenhouse			
Deposited by him for Coinage.			
1479 oz. 5 dwts. gross weight Silver Bullion			
1479 " 5 " Standard weight, as of Assayer's			
return N ^o 2. agreeably to receipt N ^o 2. Value			
			1706, 82, 5.
"			
Silver Bullion Dr. to David Rittenhouse			
Deposited by him for Coinage			
255 oz. 5 dwts. gross weight Silver Bullion			
255 " 5 " Standard weight, as of Assayer's			
return N ^o 3. agreeably to receipt N ^o 3. Value			
			244, 51, 5.

Figure 2– Waste Book: Assayer's Returns & Deposit Receipts

Who Deposited The Silver For The 1794 Dollars?

25	
Chief Coiner his account of Silver Dr.	
To Silver Bullion	
delivered to him for coinage in pursuance of	
a warrant of the Director N ^o 2.	
1479 oz. 5 dwts. Standard Silver Bullion.	1,706, 82 5
26	
Chief Coiner his account of Silver Dr.	
To Silver Bullion	
delivered to him for coinage in pursuance	
of a warrant of the Director N ^o 3.	
255 oz. 5 dwts. Standard Silver Bullion.	294. 51. 5

Figure 3 – Waste Book: August 25 & 26, 1794

October 15 th .	
31 16 Silver Coinage D ^r to Chief Coiner his account of Silver	
received from him in pursuance of a warrant of the Director N ^o 4.	
1753 dollars	
1523 oz 12 dwts.	1753.

Figure 4 – Bullion Journal: October 15, 1794 - Delivery Warrant #1

Dec^r } Mint of the United States
 n^o 283 } 15 October 1794
 Pay to David Rittenhouse one thousand
 seven hundred and fifty eight Dollars in part of
 Deposits n^o 283 made the 22^d of August 1794
 Dollars 1758...
 To the Treasurer }
 of the Mint }

David Rittenhouse Director

Figure 5 – October 15, 1794: Partial Coin Return Warrant

Mint of the United States 7 May 1795.			
David Rittenhouse D ^r To Sundry accounts			
To Silver Coinage			
paid to him in pursuance of a warrant of the Director N ^o 2.			
1706 dollars	1706.		
1 half dollar	.50		
6 half dimes	.30		
		1706, 80.	
To Copper Coinage			
2 Cents	.02		
1 half cent	.005	.025	
	8.		1706, 82.5
David Rittenhouse D ^r To Sundry acc ^{ts}			
To Silver Coinage			
paid to him in pursuance of a warrant of the Director of this date N ^o 3.			
52 dollars	52.		
434 half dollars	217.00	269.00	
To Copper Coinage			
51 Cents	.51		
1 half cent	.005		
		269.515	

Figure 6 – Waste Book: May 7 & 8, 1795 Coins Returned to David Rittenhouse

Dep^t }
 No 187. } Mint of the United States
 7 April 1795
 Deliver to the Treasurer of the
 Mint Seventeen thousand Half Dollars of the coin
 age of the United States the property of the Bank
 of Maryland and John Vaughan
 Dollars 8000
 To the Cashier
 of the Mint }
 David Rittenhouse

Figure 7 – April 7, 1795: Exchange Delivery Warrant



R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census

By Stephen J. Herrman

United States Capped Bust Lettered Edge half dollars were minted using a manual screw press in Philadelphia between the years 1807 and 1836. The current Overton/Parsley reference describes 450 die marriages (different combinations of obverse and reverse working dies) used during this period of time. The R4 to R8 census survey covers the 105 die marriages that are currently estimated to be Rarity 4- or higher. Prior census surveys for the R4 to R8 Capped Bust half dollars may be found in Volume/Issue 24/3, 22/3, 20/3, 18/2, 16/1, 12/3, and 8/2 of the Journal.

The rarity rating estimates used in this census survey are based on the Bust Half Nut Club (BHNC) study published in Volume 16 / Issue 3 in June 2005. The rarity rating estimates for six die marriages have been demoted slightly due to the appearance of additional specimens. Specifically, 1825 O-118 is currently R7+ (5 known), 1817/4 O-102 is R7- (11 known), 1823 O-113 is R6+ (13 known), 1827 O-148 is currently R6 (19-24 known), 1827 O-137 is R6- (25-30 known), and 1831 O-120 is R6- (25-30 known).

In tracking the auction prices realized for the Bust half dollars for over 25 years, the author has observed that high quality specimens in all grades have steadily become more elusive as more collectors are drawn to this fascinating series. After a number of years of increasing prices, overall prices realized have stabilized or softened a bit since the last census survey.

This census survey includes two main tables as follows:

The R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census – Top 15 Collections table presents the census of the top 15 collections submitted. The submitters' JRCS membership numbers included in the top row on each page serve to identify individual collections. Note that the total, average, and maximum grade columns include all coins from all submissions.

The R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census By Grade table presents the census of the top 15 coins for each variety, as graded by the submitters. Note that the total, average, and maximum grade columns include all coins from all submissions.

The rarity rating estimate system used for this survey is listed below.

<u>Rating</u>	<u>Est. Nbr</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Est. Nbr</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Est. Nbr</u>
R8	1-3	R6-	25-30	R4-	161-200
R7+	4-6	R5+	31-46	R3+	201-300
R7	7-9	R5	47-63	R3	301-500
R7-	10-12	R5-	64-80	R2	501-1000
R6+	13-18	R4+	81-120	R1	over 1000
R6	19-24	R4	121-160		

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census – Top 15 Collections

YEAR	VAR	R.	275	1006	1356	323	474	189	1447	951	140	957	151	019	1446	049	263	TOT	AVG	MAX
1807	111	4+	58	45	53	40	40	15	30	25	15	35	20	12	25	20	8	47	27	58
1808	110	4+	63	40	53	50	55	40	40	40	30	45	30	35	30	25	12	50	29	63
1809	101	5	53	30	50	45	45	30	25	35	12	15	40	30	15	10	25	40	26	53
1809	104	5-	55	40	55	53	53	40	40	45	15	10	45	40	45	20	50	41	31	55
1809	108	4	53	40	40	45	45	45	30	20	45	30	25	20	30	30	45	49	28	53
1809	110	4+	63	40	50	45	40	40	40	12	12	40	12	25	40	15	20	50	30	63
1809	112	5-	58	53	58	50	40	30	35	12	25	35	45	25	20	15	25	45	28	58
1809	113	5	62	40	50	53	35	30	20	15	40	35	40	30	30	25	25	44	26	62
1809	114	5	55	25	40	50	35	35	25	30	15	40	25	20	15	10	12	49	24	55
1811	102	4	63	45	53	53	53	45	40	12	25	55	30	30	40	20	20	45	37	63
1811	107	4	62	53	58	58	53	40	40	35	40	45	55	35	40	35	35	46	40	64
1811	112	4-	63	63	58	55	61	40	50	45	25	55	62	40	45	30	35	53	40	63
1811	113	5	61	53	58	58	45	53	30	45	15	35	40	45	20	12	12	41	35	61
1812	101	5-	55	45	55	30	20	20	8	35	25	30	15	4				27	26	55
1813	102	4	62	55	53	58	53	35	20	35	35	58	30	35	53	20	35	49	38	62
1813	104	4	58	45	55	50	53	30	12	53	25	40	45	35	45	40	35	47	38	58
1814	106	4+	63	58	50	53	53	35	20	40	40	30	35	20	30	30	25	51	35	63
1817	102	7-	53	20	8													6	20	53
1817	104	6	58	45	30	45	40	12	30	6	25	35						13	29	58
1817	105	4-	58	45	58	55	45	45	53	25	50	58	30	40	45	45	25	57	36	58
1817	108	4	62	53	55	58	45	45	55	20	15	50	40	35	50	30	30	38	39	62
1818	110	4	64+	55	63	40	58	45	45	25	25	58	55	35	40	40	45	47	40	64
1818	115	4+	58	40	50	50	50	30	40	30	45	50	50	35	35	15	12	48	33	58
1819	103	4	62	45	58	58	50	50	50	45	25	53	55	20	50	40	35	53	43	62
1819	106	4	65+	50	61	50	55	35	20	40	35	55	35	30	40	40	12	40	35	65
1820	104	4+	64	50	62	55	55	40	20	45	8	40	55	15	55	40	30	51	41	64
1820	107	5	65+	45	62	55	45	40	15	12	15	40	53	30	35	35	45	38	32	65
1822	102	4+	63	55	55	62	55	35	55	30	25	50	45	40	50	30	25	45	38	63
1822	103	5-	65+	40	55	50	62	40	40	35	45	50	45	30	53	15	25	44	36	65
1822	112	4	63	53	50	55	63	40	50	35	15	55	40	30	50	35	45	39	41	63
1823	102	4	63	40	64	62	55	45	50	30	15	50	30	40	50	40	25	45	38	64
1823	109	5+	64	25	58	58	40	45	12	50	10	15	25	55	20	20	15	42	31	64
1823	113	7-	40	12	30	30	20	12	6									7	21	40
1824	102	5+	58	45	53	58	50	35	10	15	8	40	40	30	20	30	15	36	25	58
1824	112	4	62	45	53	55	50	50	40	25	45	50	25	35	35	40	20	44	39	62
1824	114	5-	62	30	58	50	53	40	30	53	15	40	40	40	40	25	35	46	32	62
1825	103	4-	65	55	61	55	53	50	30	30	50	55	45	30	50	40	30	52	41	65
1825	104	4+	67	53	55	58	63	40	20	55	8	45	15	45	55	40	30	47	39	67

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census – Top 15 Collections

YEAR	VAR	R.	275	1006	1356	323	474	189	1447	951	140	957	151	019	1446	049	263	TOT	AVG	MAX
1825	109	5	63	64	64	63	55	40	45	35	50	45	25	25	40	20	30	49	35	64
1825	117	4	62	55	58	58	65	63	55	40	8	55	35	45	50	30	50	46	45	65
1825	118	7+	35	25	20													4	22	35
1826	103	5-	63	53	53	58	45	40	15	25	35	45	30	45	53	40	20	42	37	63
1826	114	4+	63	45	62	61	61	45	40	30	50	50	30	40	50	25	40	48	41	63
1826	115	5-	64	55	63	55	45	50	53	20	30	40	30	45	40	45	25	52	39	64
1826	119	4-	64	58	55	61	50	40	53	53	40	61	40	40	40	30	20	45	44	64
1826	120	4-	64	50	58	58	53	35	45	40	45	58	58	30	55	45	40	48	45	64
1827	103	4	64	35	63	62	53	40	50	45	40	50	40	40	53	35	35	44	40	64
1827	108	4-	63	55	50	63	58	40	55	45	45	53	35	40	40	35	35	54	44	63
1827	109	4-	64	45	63	58	62	40	40	40	45	55	40	40	45	40	30	48	43	64
1827	110	4-	63	58	53	62	62	45	50	40	35	58	35	40	50	40	35	47	43	64
1827	111	4	63	45	53	58	53	45	45	58	50	53	45	45	53	40	35	45	44	63
1827	113	4-	63+	50	58	61	53	40	50	53	53	55	40	30	35	40	20	52	43	63
1827	116	4+	64+	53	58	58	45	58	45	35	35	45	30	45	35	40	25	49	41	64
1827	122	5	64	45	55	58	53	50	30	35	20	45	35	25	35	30	40	41	34	64
1827	123	5-	63	53	58	58	55	50	40	55	35	40	30	40	50	25	12	48	37	63
1827	124	5+	62	45	58	61	53	50	25	25	50	45	35	40	40	50	4	45	33	62
1827	127	5	58	45	58	55	40	50	50	15	30	45	40	40	45	40	10	36	35	58
1827	128	4-	64	50	55	55	45	45	40	45	8	50	30	20	45	30	15	39	40	64
1827	129	4-	64	45	62	55	55	45	40	63	50	50	45	30	53	45	35	51	44	64
1827	133	4	63	40	55	58	55	50	45	50	8	55	40	40	50	40	45	49	39	63
1827	134	4	63	45	62	62	45	40	50	35	45	58	30	20	53	45	12	50	43	63
1827	136	4	63	55	40	58	55	50	55	53	58	58	35	15	53	30	35	47	45	64
1827	137	6-	62	40	40	50	40	45	20	40	10	45	8	12				19	28	62
1827	138	4	64	55	55	58	53	40	40	35	30	50	58	45	35	30	40	47	43	64
1827	139	4-	58+	45	58	62	58	55	30	53	30	53	40	35	55	25	35	49	42	63
1827	140	4+	63	45	53	63	55	40	40	40	10	53	35	40	40	30	35	49	38	63
1827	144	5+	62	45	53	55	45	30	20	30	15	35	30	40	25	12	50	36	31	62
1827	145	5	63	35	55	55	45	53	50	25	30	35	35	45	45	30	15	41	36	63
1827	147	4	65	45	62	55	63	40	53	45	20	45	45	35	45	40	20	49	41	65
1827	148	6	45	45	15	10	40	40		4	40							12	31	45
1827	149	8	53			35												2	44	53
1828	105	5	62	45	62	58	58	58	30	15	40	25	30	35	50	30	30	35	34	62
1828	106	4+	65	53	63	62	53	40	30	40	40	55	45	45	50	35	25	43	42	65
1828	111	4	64	30	58	53	50	40	45	45	35	55	35	35	45	40	8	45	37	64
1828	123	5+	64	53	58	50	40	12	40	20	25	40	30	40	15	45	40	28	38	64
1829	106	5-	64	53	55	55	55	45	45	40	25	50	40	40	50	30	45	37	40	64

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census – Top 15 Collections

YEAR	VAR	R.	275	1006	1356	323	474	189	1447	951	140	957	151	019	1446	049	263	TOT	AVG	MAX
1829	109	4+	64	45	53	58	62	50	30	45	35	45	25	40	50	30	30	46	39	64
1829	118	4+	62	40	55	62	50	40	40	35	15	45	35	45	55	40	45	43	37	62
1829	120	8	25															1	25	25
1830	105	4	64	55	50	58	58	40	40	30	40	58	15	45	40	30	50	45	42	64
1830	112	4+	58	45	55	53	55	50	50	40	40	45	30	50	50	40	30	51	41	58
1830	114	5	63	40	63	45	40	25	8	30	25	40	35	35	15	15	10	34	34	63
1831	113	4	58	58	55	55	58	35	50	53	30	58	40	45	53	40	45	48	43	63
1831	115	4	63	45	58	58	63	53	50	45	15	58	25	30	45	25	25	51	41	63
1831	117	4	62	40	45	55	53	50	55	30	45	45	25	20	45	40	45	45	39	62
1831	120	6-	62	50	40	30	12	25	12	15	40	35	12	20				18	26	62
1832	109	4	58	62	55	62	61	45	55	35	45	50	50	40	50	30	45	52	44	62
1832	114	4+	63	50	55	58	55	55	45	40	25	58	60	40	40	40	45	47	42	63
1832	117	4+	63	53	55	62	50	55	30	53	53	45	45	40	53	40	30	47	40	63
1832	119	4-	63	53	62	55	55	50	45	53	25	62	55	50	55	55	35	46	46	64
1832	123	7+	50	55														2	53	55
1833	111	4+	62	45	55	55	45	40	50	40	20	53	45	30	40	40	25	39	39	62
1833	115	5+	63	20	50	45	40	30	12	30	20	35	35	35	25	30	25	42	29	63
1833	116	7+	65															1	65	65
1834	118	4	62	58	53	58	55	45	50	55	50	58	45	35	53	40	25	47	44	62
1834	119	4	64	45	53	58	58	40	30	53	15	60	45	25	50	25	25	46	41	64
1834	120	4	63	50	55	53	55	50	55	50	30	55	30	58	45	45	50	50	46	63
1834	122	7+	64															1	64	64
1835	111	8	65	63														2	64	65
1836	103	4-	63	50	58	62	53	50	55	50	30	45	30	45	40	35	35	49	43	63
1836	105	4-	64	45	58	55	50	40	53	45	10	55	40	40	53	40	25	43	42	64
1836	107	4	62	55	50	55	62	45	20	45	30	53	30	20	40	40	20	45	39	64
1836	120	4-	62	53	55	55	55	55	25	40	40	55	45	40	45	40	35	46	43	62
1836	121	5+	58	40	45	55	30	25	45	50	25	53	35	30	30	30	6	36	29	58
1836	123	4	64	50	55	58	55	40	53	53	40	53	45	40	55	30	45	39	43	64
TOTAL VARS			105	101	99	98	97	97	96	96	96	95	94	94	91	91	91	4245	37.9	
AVG GRADE			60.9	46.5	53.5	54.1	50.4	41.2	37.4	36.7	30.0	46.9	36.8	34.7	42.2	32.6	29.2			

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census by Grade

YEAR	VAR	R.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	TOT	AVG	MAX
1807	111	4+	58	55	53	53	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	35	35	47	27	58
1808	110	4+	63	55	53	53	50	50	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	50	29	63
1809	101	5	53	50	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	35	30	30	40	26	53
1809	104	5-	55	55	53	53	53	50	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	41	31	55
1809	108	4	53	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	49	28	53
1809	110	4+	63	55	53	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	50	30	63
1809	112	5-	58	58	53	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	35	35	35	45	28	58
1809	113	5	62	53	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	35	35	35	35	44	26	62
1809	114	5	55	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	35	35	35	30	30	30	30	49	24	55
1811	102	4	63	58	55	55	53	53	53	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	37	63
1811	107	4	64+	62	62	58	58	58	58	55	53	53	45	45	45	45	45	46	40	64
1811	112	4-	63	63	62	61	60	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	50	53	40	63
1811	113	5	61	58	58	53	53	53	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	41	35	61
1812	101	5-	55	55	45	45	40	40	35	35	30	30	30	25	25	25	25	27	26	55
1813	102	4	62	58	58	58	58	55	55	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	50	49	38	62
1813	104	4	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	47	38	58
1814	106	4+	63	62	60	58	58	58	55	53	53	50	50	50	45	40	40	51	35	63
1817	102	7-	53	20	20	15	8	6										6	20	53
1817	104	6	58	50	45	45	40	35	30	30	25	12	6	4	3			13	29	58
1817	105	4-	58	58	58	58	55	55	53	53	53	50	50	50	45	45	45	57	36	58
1817	108	4	62	58	55	55	55	53	53	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	38	39	62
1818	110	4	64+	63	63	62	58	58	55	55	53	50	50	50	45	45	45	47	40	64
1818	115	4+	58	58	55	50	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	40	40	48	33	58
1819	103	4	62	58	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	43	62
1819	106	4	65+	64	61	55	55	55	55	53	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	40	35	65
1820	104	4+	64	64	63	62	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	53	50	50	50	51	41	64
1820	107	5	65+	62	58+	55	55	53	53	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	38	32	65
1822	102	4+	63	62	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	50	50	50	45	45	38	63
1822	103	5-	65+	63	62	62	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	45	45	45	45	44	36	65
1822	112	4	63	63	58	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	50	50	50	45	39	41	63
1823	102	4	64	63	62	58	58	58	58	55	55	50	50	50	50	50	45	45	38	64
1823	109	5+	64	58	58	58	55	53	50	50	50	45	45	40	40	35	30	42	31	64
1823	113	6+	40	30	30	20	12	12	6									7	21	40
1824	102	5+	58	58	53	53	50	45	40	40	40	35	35	30	30	30	30	36	25	58
1824	112	4	62	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	53	50	50	50	45	45	44	39	62
1824	114	5-	62	58	58	55	55	53	53	53	53	50	50	50	48	40	40	46	32	62
1825	103	4-	65	63	62	62	61	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	52	41	65
1825	104	4+	67	64	64	63	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	47	39	67

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census by Grade

YEAR	VAR	R.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	TOT	AVG	MAX
1825	109	5	64	64	63	63	55	55	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	49	35	64
1825	117	4	65	63	62	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	53	46	45	65
1825	118	7+	35	25	20	8												4	22	35
1826	103	5-	63	58	58	58	58	58	53	53	53	53	53	53	50	45	45	42	37	63
1826	114	4+	63	62	62	62	62	61	61	58	55	53	53	50	50	50	50	48	41	63
1826	115	5-	64	64	63	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	50	50	50	50	52	39	64
1826	119	4-	64	63	61	61	61	58	58	58	55	55	53	53	53	53	50	45	44	64
1826	120	4-	64	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	53	48	45	64
1827	103	4	64	64	63	62	58	55	53	53	53	50	50	45	45	45	45	44	40	64
1827	108	4-	63	63	63	63	62	62	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	54	44	63
1827	109	4-	64	63	63	62	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	48	43	64
1827	110	4-	64	63	62	62	60	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	53	47	43	64
1827	111	4	63	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	53	53	50	45	44	63
1827	113	4-	63+	62	61	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	52	43	63
1827	116	4+	64+	62	58	58	58	58	58	55	55	53	50	50	50	45	45	49	41	64
1827	122	5	64	58	58	58	55	55	53	50	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	41	34	64
1827	123	5-	63	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	45	45	45	48	37	63
1827	124	5+	62	61	58	58	53	50	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	40	45	33	62
1827	127	5	58	58	55	55	53	50	50	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	36	35	58
1827	128	4-	64	63	62	61	58	55	55	55	55	50	50	50	50	45	45	39	40	64
1827	129	4-	64	63	63	63	62	61	61	60	58	55	55	55	53	53	53	51	44	64
1827	133	4	63	62	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	49	39	63
1827	134	4	63	63	62	62	62	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	50	43	63
1827	136	4	64	63	61	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	53	47	45	64
1827	137	6-	62	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	30	30	20	20	12	12	12	19	28	62
1827	138	4	64	60	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	53	47	43	64
1827	139	4-	63	62	62	58+	58	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	50	50	49	42	63
1827	140	4+	63	63	58	58	55	53	53	53	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	49	38	63
1827	144	5+	62	58	58	55	53	50	45	45	40	40	40	35	35	35	35	36	31	62
1827	145	5	63	58	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	45	45	45	45	41	36	63
1827	147	4	65	64	64	63	62	58	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	49	41	65
1827	148	6	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	15	12	10	4				12	31	45
1827	149	8	53	35														2	44	53
1828	105	5	62	62	58	58	58	58	55	55	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	35	34	62
1828	106	4+	65	63	63	62	58	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	45	45	43	42	65
1828	111	4	64	62	58	55	53	53	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	37	64
1828	123	5+	64	58	55	53	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	28	38	64
1829	106	5-	64	61	55	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	37	40	64

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census by Grade

YEAR	VAR	R.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	TOT	AVG	MAX
1829	109	4+	64	62	58	58	58	53	53	50	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	46	39	64
1829	118	4+	62	62	58	55	55	55	55	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	43	37	62
1829	120	8	25															1	25	25
1830	105	4	64	58	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	50	50	50	50	50	45	42	64
1830	112	4+	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	51	41	58
1830	114	5	63	63	63	58	55	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	34	34	63
1831	113	4	63	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	53	50	48	43	63
1831	115	4	63	63	58	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	51	41	63
1831	117	4	62	62	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	39	62
1831	120	6-	62	50	40	40	35	30	30	25	25	20	20	20	15	15	12	18	26	62
1832	109	4	62	62	61	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	52	44	62
1832	114	4+	63	62	60	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	50	47	42	63
1832	117	4+	63	62	58	58	58	55	55	53	53	53	53	53	50	50	50	47	40	63
1832	119	4-	64	63	63	63	62	62	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	46	46	64
1832	123	7+	55	50														2	53	55
1833	111	4+	62	55	55	55	53	53	50	48	45	45	45	45	45	45	40	39	39	62
1833	115	5+	63	53	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	43	40	40	35	35	35	42	29	63
1833	116	7+	65															1	65	65
1834	118	4	62	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	47	44	62
1834	119	4	64	60	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	53	50	46	41	64
1834	120	4	63	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	50	46	63
1834	122	7+	64															1	64	64
1835	111	8	65	63														2	64	65
1836	103	4-	63	63	62	62	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	49	43	63
1836	105	4-	64	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	53	50	50	50	43	42	64
1836	107	4	64	62	62	62	58	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	50	45	45	45	39	64
1836	120	4-	62	61	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	46	43	62
1836	121	5+	58	55	53	50	50	45	45	45	45	40	40	35	35	30	30	36	29	58
1836	123	4	64	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	53	53	50	39	43	64
TOTAL VARS			105	102	99	99	98	98	97	96	96	96	96	96	95	94	94	4245	37.9	
AVG GRADE			61.2	58.1	56.5	55.1	53.9	52.6	51.9	51.3	49.8	48.5	47.8	46.5	45.9	45.3	44.6			



The 1835 Breen-6506 Half Eagle: Die Marriages and Die States

By Eric M. Krauss MD

The 1835 Classic Head half eagle

The Classic Head series was the first regular gold issue of the United States Mint to circulate commercially on a wide scale. It was authorized by the Coinage Act of June 28, 1834, which reduced standard gold content by 4.5%, eliminating the incentive to export U.S. gold for bullion, and placed the nation on a de facto gold standard at a 16:1 ratio. The legislation was driven by allies of Southern mining interests and enemies of the Second Bank of the United States in Congress who sought, with the strong backing of the Jackson administration, to severely limit the ability of banks to issue or accept banknotes while simultaneously flooding channels of commerce with gold (1). New half and quarter eagles designed by Chief Engraver William Kneass were released into circulation in August 1834. To mark the decrease in weight, the obverse portrait was redone without cap or turban in a style resembling John Reich's Classic Head half cent of 1809, and the motto "E Pluribus Unum" was removed from the reverse. Mintage of Classic Head gold continued through 1838 for the half eagle and 1839 for the quarter eagle. Production by the new Southern mints commenced in 1838.

The new law failed to bring about the end of banknotes but the increase in gold coin production was unprecedented, and as much gold was released into circulation by the mint in the last 5 months of 1834 as in the preceding ten years (2). Few pieces were hoarded or saved, and as a result all Mint State Classic Head gold issues are condition rarities. A very small number of proofs were made, some of which were part of presentation sets for diplomatic missions in the mid-1830's.

Mass production notwithstanding, these coins were struck from hand-finished working dies and numerous marriages exist which can be identified without optical aids. However, collecting Classic gold by die marriage and die state has never been popular as it is with pre-1839 copper and silver, or the earlier old-tenor gold issues. This situation is partly a consequence of the lack of an authoritative guide to the series. Scarce marriages in circulated grades are generally affordable and can be obtained with research and patience.

A basic collection of Classic Head half eagles consists of 7 coins including the Philadelphia, Charlotte, and Dahlonga issues, a straightforward collecting task. A "Red Book" set includes just one more coin, the 1834 Crosslet 4. A complete set of Classic Head half eagles by die marriage consists of 34 coins and includes several Philadelphia mint marriages which are significantly rarer than the Crosslet 4 or the branch mint issues.

The year 1835 presents a major challenge to completing the full set. With a mintage of 371,534 the 1835 half eagle could hardly be considered a rare date, but the marriage

is distributed across 8 die marriages, and nearly every piece encountered in the market is one of 3 common varieties. The other 5 are rare, of which 2 are the subject of this review.

Breen's *Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Coins* (3), which was a starting point in my research on the series, contains three entries for the 1835 half eagle, each with a different obverse:

6504 1835 [all kinds 371,534 + ?P] First head, small date. Truncation nearly straight; fore-lock single; center stroke of 8 thin; open 3. .

6505 1835 Second head, small date. Truncation much curved, its end rounded; center stroke of 8 thick; “closed” 3 (upper knob about touches cusp).

6506 1835 Third head, large date. Very rare. Truncation curved, its end narrower; center stroke of 8 thin; open 3. Ill. is of a proof, one of 3 traced.

The common 1835 die marriages are all included under Breen-**6504** and **6505** and are readily available in all circulated grades. Breen-**6506**, on the other hand, seemed to be virtually unobtainable and became a subject of par-ticular interest. Breen's plate coin was a proof reproduced from his earlier reference on proof coins (4) which made mention of diplomatic sets struck in 1835 for the Emperors of Japan and Cochin-China (Viet Nam), and so I questioned whether the **6506** might be a proof-only variety.

John McCloskey's monograph on the occasion of the American Numismatic Society's 1989 Coinage of the Americas Conference (COAC) was the first significant contribution to the literature on the Classic Head half eagle series following Breen's early monographs and systematically described 31 die marriages (5). For the 1835 obverses McCloskey relied on date digit punches rather than head types, facilitating rapid and accurate attribution. His subsequent unpublished die linkage analysis (private communication) demonstrated the correct emission sequence to be **6504** -> **6506** -> **6505**.

The salient differences between the three 1835-dated obverses are detailed in Table 1. The column on the right of the table indicates the number of die marriages presently

Table 1. 1835 Half Eagle Obverses

Breen #	Obverse	1	8	3 center stroke	5 flag	LIBERTY	Die marriages
6504	1835-1	Short	Block	None	Straight	BE dip below I,R	4
6505	1835-3	Peaked	Script	Point	Curved	B low, touches E	2
6506	1835-2	Tall	Block	Point/spur	Curved	L rotated CCW	2

known for each Breen variety. The obverses are illustrated in Figures 1-3.

Examination of the date digits confirms that, as noted by Breen, they are larger for **6506** than the other 1835 obverses and similar in size to those used for the bust quarter dollars of the mid-1830's. The 3 punch has a point/spur structure with rounded upper loop and triangular lower loop found on multiple small-size bust quarter dollar obverses dated 1832-1835 and not seen on any other Classic half eagle die. The date digits for the half eagles and two quarter dollar varieties are shown to scale in Figure 4.

This study reviews the two known **6506** die marriages and discusses the states of the contributing obverse and reverse dies. Pairing obverse and reverse in different states yields several resultant states of the die marriage, including the first documented remarriage in the Classic Head series. Census data and rarity estimates are presented for the **6506** varieties by die state.

Breen's numbering will be retained as a convenient point of reference since it continues to be widely cited in auction and retail listings. A definitive system based on emission sequence is in preparation.

Breen-6506 die marriages

Obverse 1835-2 is paired with 2 reverse dies.

The first **6506** die marriage documented in the numismatic literature was the 1835 proof plated by Breen (3,4) pairing Obverse 1835-2 with a reverse most readily identified by the letter U of UNITED which appears to nestle within the upper pair of leaves of the olive branch ("Nestled U reverse", Figure 5). This die marriage is designated here as **6506.1**. The **6506** photographs in McCloskey's 1989 review (5) show a different coin from Breen, but the die marriage is the same.

6506.1 is very rare (R-6+) and equivalent to 1835 2-C in Reference 2 and Heritage Auctions and McCloskey-5 by StacksBowers.

The second **6506** die marriage was described by Harry Bass in the catalogue of his exhibit of early federal gold coins at the 1989 ANS COAC conference (6). Among 78 Classic Head half eagles representing 32 die marriages was a single example of Obverse 1835-2, inventoried as "Group 89, Coin 14" and attributed as "Breen 6506B," with a reverse die different from Nestled U (Figure 6). Used for three different 1834-dated die marriages including the King of Siam proof, this reverse die is distinguished by the arrangement of the olive leaves. In the middle pair, the lower leaf (leaf 3) overlies the upper leaf (leaf 4; Figure 7), while for each of the remaining 16 reverse dies currently known in the Classic half eagle series leaf 4 overlies leaf 3 (7). This feature can be discerned even on low resolution images. The "Reversed Leaves" reverse was paired with seven different obverses dated 1834, 1835, and 1836. The Obverse 1835-2/

Reversed Leaves die pair is referred to here as **6506.2**. While no images were provided in the exhibit catalogue, Bass is to be credited as the first to recognize this variety on the basis of the clear catalogue description. Bass did not own an example of **6506.1**, but his exhibit happened to include 2 1835-dated die pairs (this **6506.2** and a rare variety of **6504**) missing from the monograph McCloskey presented at the same conference.

6506.2 is rare (R-6) and equivalent to 1835 2-D in Reference 2 and Heritage Auctions.

Table 2. Obverse 1835-2 Die Marriages

Die marriage	Reverse die	Middle leaves	U/Leaf 5	A3/Arrowhead	5	Tongue
6506.1	<i>Nestled U</i>	Leaf 4 over leaf 3	Very close	Distant	Recut	No
6506.2	<i>Reversed Leaves</i>	Leaf 3 over leaf 4	Distant	Touching	Normal	Yes

The two Breen-6506 die marriages are compared in Table 2.

Breen-6506 die states: Obverse

In the following discussion, lowercase Roman numerals identify states of individual dies; uppercase Roman numerals, states of die marriages.

Obverse 1835-2 is found in 3 die states designated *i*, *ii*, and *iii*.

State i. Prime die state (Figure 2).

State ii. Heavily lapped, with digit 8 in the date scarcely visible (Figures 8-10). The 8 was weakly impressed on both proofs and business strikes in the prime die state, and after lapping it is scarcely visible. At arm's length the date appears to read "1 35". I refer to this as the "Vanishing 8" variety. The remaining digits are thinner, especially the upstroke of the 5, and the 3 has lost the center spur. The dentils are weak, particularly from 4:00 to 9:00. The stars are thin, more plainly revealing the repunching of Star 7 which is subtle in the prime die state. The portrait loses detail along the margins.

State iii. The terminal die state with bisecting obverse die crack extending from the rim between Stars 5 and 6 across the field to the ribbon, through LIBERTY and the hair curls at right, and reaching the rim between Stars 12 and 13 (Figure 11). A second crack runs from the hair curl just in front of the ear leftward across the cheek to the tip of the nose. A third, fainter crack extends from the same point of origin northwest at a 15° angle to the second crack, toward the eye.

Breen-6506 die states: Reverse

The Nestled U reverse is found in 3 die states (Figure 12).

State i. Prime die state.

State ii. A crack starts at the junction of the upper edge of the eagle's left (facing) wing and the shield and ends in the field between S1 and T2 of STATES.

State iii. This crack continues to the rim between S1 and T2 of STATES.

The Reversed Leaves reverse is found in 2 die states. This was the fifth appearance of this reverse in the Classic Head series and the initial observed die state in **6506.2** is *iv* (not *i*). In addition, as discussed below, there was interruption of the emission of **6506.2** to strike an 1834-dated marriage. As a result the final observed die state for **6506.2** is *vi* (not *v*).

State iv (Figure 6). Internal cracks in S1, S2, A2, M; D1 and S2 repunched. Right wing tip reengraved. Cracks from both wing tips to dentils and (A) ME2(RICA). Hairline crack in right angle of N (Figure 13).

State vi (Figures 14-16). Internal cud in lower right angle of N, die lumps by U and E1. Upper olive stem reengraved. On the highest grade survivors, metal within the lower half of the right angle of the N protrudes above the surface of the coin, reflecting the depth of the die chip. With circulation the extra metal wears flat, and in grades of XF or lower the right angle of the N simply appears half-filled in.

The 3 known obverse states combine with the 5 known reverse states to yield 3 states of **6506.1 (I - III)** and 3 states of **6506.2 (I - III)** as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Die states of the Breen 6506 half eagle

		Nestled U	Nestled U	Nestled U	Reversed leaves	Reversed leaves
		<i>i</i>	<i>ii</i>	<i>iii</i>	<i>iv</i>	<i>vi</i>
Obverse 1835-2	<i>i</i>	6506.1.I	6506.1.II	6506.1.III	6506.2.I	—
Obverse 1835-2	<i>ii</i>	—	—	—	—	6506.2.II
Obverse 1835-2	<i>iii</i>	—	—	—	—	6506.2.III

[lowercase Roman numerals identify states of individual dies; uppercase Roman numerals, die marriages]

The 3 die states of **6506.1** show progression only in the Nestled U reverse. The situation with **6506.2** is more complex. After **6506.2.I** was struck the obverse die was removed for lapping and the reverse die paired with a different obverse, during which time it acquired the markers described above under Reversed Leaves state *vi*. It was then remarried to the lapped Obverse 1835-2 to produce **6506.2.II**. Daryl Haynor's recent study of the Reversed Leaves reverse die states (private communication, 2017) has indeed shown progression in an 1834 Breen-6502 die marriage spanning States I and II of **6506.2**. The emission sequence for **6506.2** is therefore **6506.2.I** (*reverse state iv*) >> 6502 (*re-verse states v to vi*) >> **6506.2.II**. The terminal die state **6506.III** shows progression only in the obverse die.

Populations

6506.1 is the only known 1835 die marriage struck in proof, with 3 known examples. They are all are Die State I without the reverse crack. A gem proof in the Smithsonian Institution was part of the original Cabinet Collection of the Mint of the United States.

The remaining 2 pieces were formerly the property of John J. Pittman. Pittman's first example was purchased at Kosoff's Memorable Sale of March 1948, lot 334 and last sold in David Akers' Pittman Sale Part II in May 1998, lot 1906. His second example was part of lot 248 of Sotheby's Sale of the Palace Collection of Egypt in February 1954, sold in the Akers' Pittman Sale Part I in October 1997, lot 937, and last appeared in StacksBowers' Pogue Sale Part IV, May 2016, lot 4052, where it realized \$822,500. As discussed in Reference 8, the provenances of the Memorable and Farouk specimens were reversed in some earlier auction catalogues. Both Pittman proofs pedigree to Lorin G. Parmelee, William H. Woodin, and Waldo Newcomer. The Farouk specimen was previously in the collection of E.H.R. Green (8). The Memorable coin is plated in Breen's references (3,4) and has a reverse toning stripe from the rim near S1 to the upper left shield corner. Breen's *Encyclopedia of Proof Coins* lists an additional impaired proof (Kosoff's 1946 ANA sale, lot 1285) which has not been traced (9).

This is not a proof-only marriage. Thorough review of auction listings, major collections, coin show bourse offerings and retail sites has identified 12 business strike examples of **6506.1**, all with cracked reverse, with a single exception. A choice AU example in Die State II resides in the American Numismatic Society collection. Tables 4 and 5 list known specimens of **6506.1** by die state.

6506.2 is slightly easier to locate than **6506.1** with 22 specimens identified. No proof or problem-free mint state examples of **6506.2** are known. Only 6 specimens with Vanishing 8 are traced, of which 2 are Die State III. Bass' ANS exhibit coin appeared as part of lot 847 in the Bass II sale and was catalogued without image as "Breen 6506, AU50, light obverse scratches." Tables 6 and 7 list known specimens of **6506.2** by die state.

The 1835 Breen-6506 Half Eagle: Die Marriages and Die States

The Reversed Leaves reverse die, in a slightly more advanced state, was subsequently paired with Obverse 1835-3 in a common **6505** marriage and made a final appearance, with additional lapping, as an 1836-dated issue.

Table 4. Specimens Traced for **6506.1**

Die state	Proof	Business	Total
6506.1.I	3	1	4
6506.1.II		5	5
6056.1.III		6	6
<i>Total</i>	3	12	15

Table 5. **6506.1** Census

Die state		
I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gem Proof PCGS Proof 67+ Deep Cameo Gem Proof Prooflike, surface marks 	National Numismatic Collection 1991.0357.0013 ex-Pittman; StacksBowers, May 2016, lot 4052 Akers/Pittman II, May 1998, lot 1906 eBay, July 2010
II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS63 AU55 NGC XF45 NGC XF45 PCGS VF35 	Private collection A ANS 1960.166.90 Heritage, July 2011, lot 4728 Silver City Auctions, August 2017 CoinFacts, PCGS 24954869
III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BU prooflike PCGS AU55 NCS AU58 detail NGC XF45 AU NGC XF detail, obv. scratch 	Stack's, September 1974, lot 572 eBay, February 2013 Private collection B eBay, February 2013 Private collection B StacksBowers, August 2012, lot 417

• *current location traced*

Table 6. Specimens Traced for **6506.2**

Die state	Count
6506.2.I	15
6506.2.II (Vanishing 8)	4
6506.2.III (Vanishing 8)	2
Unknown	1
<i>Total</i>	22

The 1835 Breen-6506 Half Eagle: Die Marriages and Die States

Table 7. 6506.2 Census

Die state		
I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCGS AU55 AU 55 • NGC AU53 • PCGS AU50 • PCGS AU50 • PCGS AU50 AU50 • ANACS AU53 det., cleaned • NGC XF45 • XF det., cleaned NGC XF detail NGC XF40 • PCGS VF30 • VF20 • VF det., damaged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage, July 1994, lot 7417 Paramount, November 1975, lot 552 Private collection B Heritage, May 2008, lot 3195 eBay, October 2015 Private collection B Stack's, June 1987, lot 1472 Heritage, April 2008, lot 61541 Heritage, September 2008, lot 61541 Paul Simpkins, March 2007 Heritage, April 2012, lot 11436 Heritage, February 2009, lot 61579 Stack's, March 2008, lot 993 Private collection A Whitman expo, Baltimore, March 2007
II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGC Unc. detail AU50 • AU50 • NGC XF45 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage, April 2016, lot 5803 Superior, January 1996, lot 2301 Private collection B David Lawrence, February 2015, lot 437736
III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGC AU58 • NGC F12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> eBay, February 2016 Heritage, November 2015, lot 25432
(unknown)	AU50, obverse scratches	Bowers Bass II, October 1999, lot 847
• <i>current location traced</i>		

The following summarizes the marriages included under Breen-6506:

6506.1 1835 Obverse 2/Nestled U. R6+ as a die marriage

Die State I. Perfect obverse and reverse. 3 proof and 1 prooflike business strike. R7+

Die State II. Obverse: Perfect. Reverse: Crack does not reach upper rim. R7

Die State III. Obverse: Perfect. Reverse: Crack complete to upper rim. R7

6506.2 1835 Obverse 2/Reversed leaves. R6 as a die marriage

Die State I. Obverse: Perfect. Reverse: Hairline crack within right angle of N. R6

Die State II. Obverse: Lapped, vanishing 8. Reverse: Right angle of N half-filled in, die lumps. R7+

Die State III. Obverse: Lapped, vanishing 8, bisecting crack. Reverse: Same as 6506.2.II. R8

The author thanks Daryl Haynor for sharing his critical observations on die markers in the preparation of this manuscript. John McCloskey generously shared notes on his research through 2005 on the Classic Head half eagle series. Emmett McDonald kindly provided a copy of the Bass exhibit catalogue.

Notes

1. Rimini, Robert V. *Andrew Jackson and the Bank War*. New York, W.W. Norton, 1967.
2. Carothers, Neil. *Fractional Money: A History of the Small Coins and Fractional Paper Currency of the United States*. New York, John Wiley & Sons, 1930.
3. Breen, Walter. *Walter Breen's Comprehensive Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*. New York: Doubleday, 1988.
4. Breen, Walter. *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Proof Coins*. New York, FCI Press, 1977. The reader will note that the obverse devices of the 1835 proof half eagle are inaccurately described therein.
5. McCloskey, John W. "A Study of Classic Half Eagles 1834-1838." In Metcalf, William E., Ed., *America's Gold Coinage*, Coinage of the America's Conference at the American Numismatic Society, November 4-5, 1989, 1-16.
6. *Selections from The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Reference Collection of United States Federal Gold Coins*. American Numismatic Society Coinage of the Americas Conference, November 4-5, 1989.
7. The numbering of the leaves proceeds clockwise starting from the lowest leaf. This is convention used, for example, in Bugert, Bill, *A Register of Seated Half Dollar Varieties*, 2013, accessed via the Newman Numismatic Portal, 8.6.2017.
8. StacksBowers Auctions, description of lot 4052 of the Pogue Sale Part IV, May 2016.
9. Lot 1285 of Kosoff's ANA sale catalogue of 8.17.1946, listed without illustration as "Proof, impaired, hairlined," realized \$23 and could be the fourth Die State I example of **6506.1** in the census.



Figure 1 - Obverse 1835-1 (Breen-6504).



Figure 2 - Obverse 1835-2 (Breen-6506).



Figure 3 - Obverse 1835-3 (Breen-6505).



Figure 4 - Left panel: Date fields for the 3 1835 half eagle obverses, shown to scale. 1, Obverse 1; 2, Obverse 2; 3, Obverse 3. Right panel: 1, half eagle, Obverse 1835-2; 2, 1835 Browning-5 quarter, to scale. Below right, point/spur structure of digit 3: 1, half eagle, obverse 1835-2; 2, 1835 Browning-5 quarter; 3, 1834 Browning-4 quarter.



Figure 5 - Nestled U reverse.



Figure 6 - Reversed leaves reverse.



Figure 7 - Left: Nestled U, leaf 4 overlies leaf 3 (arrow), the usual arrangement for this type. Right: Reversed leaves, leaf 3 overlies leaf 4.



Figure 8 - Obverse die state *ii*, heavily lapped, vanishing 8.



Figure 9 - Date area and dentils, die states *i* and *ii*. There is loss of the center spur of the 3 and thinning of the curl above the 5.



Figure 10 - Upper obverse, die states *i* and *ii*. Arrows indicate areas most noticeably affected by lapping.



Figure 11 - Top, terminal obverse die state *iii* with bisecting crack. Bottom, additional die cracks across the face.



Figure 12 - Die states of the Nestled U reverse. Left, the only known example (other than the two Pittman proofs and the Smithsonian specimen) of 6506.1 with state *i* reverse. Center, state *ii*, courtesy of the American Numismatic Society. Right, state *iii*.



Figure 14 - Reversed leaves reverse, die state *vi*, the later state found on 6506.2



Figure 13 - Reversed leaves reverse, die state *iv*, the earlier state found on 6506.2. Top: The repaired area of the right (facing) wing tip is compared with the same area on an 1834 dated specimen. Bottom: Hairline crack in N of UNITED.



Figure 15 - Internal cud in N, raised lumps by U and E of UNITED.



Figure 16 - Reengraved upper olive stem.



A New Draped Bust Dollar Remarriage

By Garrett S. Ziss

On March 30, 2017, I was a member of a team that examined the numismatic items from the Baltimore Washington Monuments' 1815 and 1915 time capsules. The 1815 time capsule contained 10 Early U.S. coins and 2 medals. One of my goals that day was to study these Early U.S. coins and attribute each one to a die marriage and die state. The first coin I examined and attributed turned out to be a 1799/8 BB-142 (B-1) Draped Bust dollar. This die marriage is a scarce R4, so it was obviously a great start to the exploration of the time capsule. However, it was the determination of the coins' die state that was the most interesting part of the investigation.

According to the Encyclopedia of United States Silver Dollars 1794-1804 (2013), by Q. David Bowers, the same obverse die was used to strike the 1799/8 BB-141 (B-3), 1799/8 BB-142 (B-1) and 1799/8 BB-143 (B-2) Draped Bust dollars, in that order. This widely-used reference book lists the following for the earliest obverse die state of the 1799/8 BB-142 marriage: "Tiny flaw or crack above R in LIBERTY now extends slightly to left beyond R." However, on the 1799/8 BB-142 dollar from the 1815 time capsule, the die flaw/crack above the R in LIBERTY did not extend slightly to the left beyond the R. I was certain that the die marriage was the 1799/8 BB-142, so this discovery got me thinking – could there possibly be a remarriage involving this obverse die?

I did not have time to investigate the issue right away because of a busy school schedule, but over the summer, I was finally able to explore a possible remarriage. Unfortunately, there was one big problem: I don't own any Draped Bust dollars! To remedy the situation, I turned to the internet and devised a 21st century solution. I developed a digital version of the blinded emission sequence/remarriage identification method used by Logan and McCloskey for half dimes (JRJ Volume 14 / Issue 2/3, p. 19). Without knowing the die marriage, I examined the images of as many high-grade 1799/8 Draped Bust dollars as possible and then ordered about 40 of them according to the obverse die deterioration.

In the Bowers' book, the obverse die deterioration around the area of BERT in LIBERTY for the 1799/8 BB-141, 1799/8 BB-142 and 1799/8 BB-143 Draped Bust dollars is described as follows:

1799/8 BB-141 (B-3) - First use of the obverse die

Die State I: Perfect dies. May not exist.

Die State II: Early state of obverse later used to coin BB-142 and BB-143. Tiny flaw or crack above R in LIBERTY does not extend to left beyond R. Minute raised flaw at left base of E. Several raised flaws below RT...

Die State III and IV: Obverse as preceding

1799/8 BB-142 (B-1) – Second use of the obverse die

Die State I: Intermediate state of obverse used earlier to coin BB-141 and later to coin BB-143. Tiny flaw or crack above R in LIBERTY now extends slightly to left beyond R. Flaw at left base of E about 50% larger than on BB-141. Several raised flaws below RT are about the same as on BB-141...

Die States II and III: Obverse as above.

1799/8 BB-143 (B-2) – Third use of the obverse die

Die State I: Obverse die relapped in effort to remove flaws...Flaws below E and RT are now larger than on BB-142...

Die State II: Obverse as preceding.

After spending many hours examining the die states of these three 1799/8 Draped Bust dollar marriages, shown below is what I believe to be a revised emission sequence. The focus is on the area of BERT in LIBERTY. The BB-141 and BB-142 Draped Bust dollar images range in grade from XF-40 to MS-64+, with the majority of the coins graded AU. The examples of the rarer BB-143 die marriage have an average grade of VF-32. All images are courtesy of Heritage Auctions.

1799/8 BB-141.1 (B-3.1):

Early die state with small die defect extending left from upright of B; faint die break at left base of E; thin die line above R that does not extend past its left side; a few light lumps under RT. (Pre-Bowers DS II)



1799/8 BB-142.1 (B-1.1):

Early/mid die state with bolder die defect extending left from upright of B; short die break at left base of E that becomes a longer, heavier break; thicker and longer die line above R that still does not extend past its left side; additional (light to medium-sized) lumps under RT. (Pre-Bowers DS I)



1799/8 BB-141.2 (B-3.2):

Mid die state with progressing die defect extending left from upright of B; increasingly longer and heavier die break at left base of E; die line above R that is a bit longer but still does not extend past its left side; light to medium-sized lumps under RT. (Bowers DS II – IV)



1799/8 BB-142.2 (B-1.2):

Mid/late die state with expanding die defect extending left from upright of B; die break at left base of E similar in length but wider than BB-141.2 (B-3.2); die line above R that now extends past its left side; less continuous but larger lumps under RT. (Bowers DS I-III)



1799/8 BB-143 (B-2):

Late die state with die defect boldly spraying left from upright of B; die break at left base of E wider and more globular; die line above R lapped with only a small part remaining that extends past the left side of R; lumps under RT are wider and more globular. (Bowers DS I-II)



To summarize, I believe that the 1799/8 Draped Bust dollar obverse die was first married with the 15-star reverse die to produce BB-141.1 (B-3.1). Then, this reverse die was withdrawn from the press and replaced with a 13-star reverse die to create BB-142.1 (B-1.1). It was during this marriage that the coin from the Baltimore Washington Monument's 1815 time capsule was minted. Next, the 1799/8 obverse die was reunited with the 15-star reverse die to produce BB-141.2 (B-3.2), which is a die remarriage.

After that, the 1799/8 obverse die was again paired with the 13-star reverse die to create BB-142.2 (B-1.2), which is a second (double) die remarriage. Finally, the 1799/8 obverse die was married to a different (second) 13-star reverse die to mint BB-143 (B-2) and finish out its life as a working die.

This is the second Draped Bust dollar remarriage to be reported. The first was a remarriage between 1798 BB-114 (B-26) and 1798 BB-113 (B-27) [1798 BB-114; 1798 BB-113; 1798 BB-114], discovered by W. David Perkins in 1997 (JRJ Volume 11 / Issue 1). It is interesting that the new remarriage reported here was produced only 15 die marriages later than Perkins' original 1798 Draped Bust dollar remarriage, so there is a history of Draped Bust dollar remarriages around that time!

Having participated in three Bust Half Nut Club die state studies, I realize that the best way to examine coins is in person (and it is a lot more fun than sitting in front of a computer!). However, due to various factors, it is not always possible to gather any or enough specimens to fully study the die states of a specific die marriage or marriages in order to confirm a remarriage. In these cases, I think the optimal way to investigate a remarriage is to employ today's technology and combine the physical examination of coins (if possible) with the use of high quality images from collectors and/or online sources.

I would like to thank Jim Matthews and David Perkins for reviewing my data and confirming the double remarriage, as well as for providing editorial comments. This investigation greatly expanded my knowledge of the 1799/8 Draped Bust dollar die states, and sparked my interest in exploring other possible remarriages. These discoveries will be detailed in a future issue of the John Reich Journal.



Letter to the Editor **By David Lange, NGC**

I acquired the Jules Reiver monograph on reeded edge halves when it was published and tried with little success to attribute the few pieces I had in my own collection. When I began attributing varieties as part of my work at NGC, I had to turn away variety submissions of reeded edge pieces from customers who lumped them in with their lettered edge pieces. The unillustrated descriptions provided by Reiver were just too unreliable to make any commitments. When Dick Graham's book came to be, I purchased a copy immediately to determine whether it was clear enough to begin attributing this coin series. To my great relief it proved to be an excellent guide. I purchased a second copy for coin show use and announced almost immediately that NGC would henceforth attribute these coins by GR numbers.

Since that time, we've seen nearly every variety, and they are illustrated at the VarietyPlus website: <https://www.ngccoin.com/coin-varieties/half-dollars/reeded-edge-half-dollar-die-varieties-vscid-25/>